

Service Date: November 28, 1984

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER of the Second	)	UTILITY DIVISION
Investigation of INTRASTATE ACCESS	)	DOCKET NO. 84.4.15
CHARGES for Telecommunications	)	INTERIM ORDER NO. 5055d

\* \* \* \* \*

AMENDED INTERIM ORDER

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The Montana Public Service Commission issued Interim Order No. 5055c in this docket on November 19, 1984. In that order the Commission established a credit to be applied to carrier common line charges in the access charge tariffs.

At Finding of Fact No. 16 of Interim Order No. 5055c the Commission concluded that the credit on carrier common line charges would not be applied on top of an existing discount for inferior access because no such discounts were being granted. The Commission went on in that finding to state that if and when inferior access is provided in the future, the Commission will determine what if any discount should be applied and whether the credit on carrier common line charges should be applied on top of that.

It has since come to the Commission's attention that Mountain Bell has in fact provided inferior access in the past and continues to do so at this time. Such access is provided at the mirrored FCC approved interstate access rate including the 55 percent discount recognized therein. Therefore, contrary to the Commission's statement in Finding of Fact No. 16, Interim Order No. 5055c, there is an immediate question as to whether the credit on

carrier common line charges should be applied on top of discounts for inferior access.

The Commission concludes that the credit on carrier common line charges should not be applied in those situations where there is already a discount for inferior access. In the past, the discount for inferior access has actually exceeded 55 percent because those companies also have not been required to pay the bulk billing element that AT&T Communications has had to pay. Many other state commissions have chosen not to adopt the 55 percent FCC imposed discount, or have adopted a discount in a lesser amount. This Commission has not made any formal findings that 55 percent is the appropriate discount level. By not applying the credit on carrier common line charges on top of the discount for inferior access, the differential between the charges paid by AT&T Communications and other companies with inferior access will become somewhat less than 55 percent. However, the actual amount paid by the other companies will remain unchanged. The Commission finds that access charges calculated in this manner constitute reasonable rates and should remain in place until such time as it is clearly shown that some other level of discount is appropriate for inferior access.


NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that the credit on carrier common line charges, identified in Interim Order No. 5055c, is not to be applied in situations where a discount has been applied for inferior access.

The calculations supporting the filings required by Interim Order No. 5055c should be made accordingly.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana this 21st day of November, 1984 by a vote of 3 to 0.


BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

  
JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

  
HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

  
CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Madeline L. Cottrill  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: You may be entitled to judicial review in this matter. Judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days of the service of this order. Section 2-4-702, MCA.